

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DURBAN 00390 051417Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 EB-08 /059 W
-----021271 052319Z /12

R 050945Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2975
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DURBAN 0390

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, SF, PINT
SUBJ: YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS PLAN SECRET NATIONAL MEETING

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1522

1. FATHER GERARD DE FLEURIOT, NATIONAL CHAPLAIN OF YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS, TOLD CONOFF JULY 3 THAT BECAUSE OF FEAR OF POLICE HARASSMENT AND FURTHER DETENTIONS, THE GROUP PLANNED A SECRET NATIONAL MEETING IN NATAL WEEK OF JULY 3 TO DISCUSS RECENT DETENTION OF 19 LEADERS AND PLAN TACTICS AND STRATEGY FOR FUTURE. HE OPINED THAT YCW LEADERSHIP WOULD PROBABLY DECIDE TO CLOSE ALL OFFICES EXCEPT DURBAN NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND BECOME AN AMORPHOUS SEMI-UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATION OPERATING IN STEALTH AND COMMUNICATING BY WORD OF MOUTH. HE PROMISED TO INFORM POST OF GROUP'S DECISIONS LATER THIS WEEK.

2. DISCUSSING DETENTIONS AND POLICE HARASSMENT OF YCW, DE FLEURIOT SAID GROUP HAD DECIDED BEST STRATEGY WAS "TO TAKE THE LINE, FOR THE MOMENT, THAT THE SAG IS INVOLVED IN RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION". HE SAID HIS PRESENCE OVERSEAS WHEN DETENTIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DURBAN 00390 051417Z

BEGAN WAS PROPITIOUS SINCE IT GAVE HIM OPPORTUNITY TO ORGANIZE AND ORCHESTRATE PROTESTS BY CHURCH AND AFFILIATED GROUPS. HE DESCRIBED JULY 3 STATEMENT BY ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF SOUTHERN AFRICA CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE PRAISING YCW'S DEDICATION TO JUSTICE, IMPLYING THEIR INNOCENCE, AND CALLING ON SAG TO CHARGE OR RELEASE THEM AS ONE OF MAJOR STEPS IN PROTEST CAMPAIGN. HE SAID HE HAD ARRANGED FOR HIS OWN APPOINTMENT AS

SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCH'S OFFICER "IN CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS", A POSITION WHICH WILL ALLOW HIM TO WRITE AND ARRANGE SUCH OFFICIAL STATEMENTS IN FUTURE.

3. WHEN ASKED WHY HE FELT SAG WAS HARASSING YCW, HE SAID PROBLEMS BEGAN WHEN POLICE FOUND ANC AND PAC LITERATURE IN CAR OF YCW LEADER DURING A ROUTINE CHECK. DE FLEURIOT SAID LITERATURE HAD BEEN USED AT A CAPE TOWN MEETING DURING WHICH GROUP HAD "DISCUSSED THE IDEOLOGIES OF THE VARIOUS LIBERATION GROUPS". HE DESCRIBED THE YCW AS SOCIALIST-ORIENTED, BUT SAID IT COULD ONLY BE CALLED COMMUNISTIC IN SOUTH AFRICA, WHERE ANY IDEOLOGY OPPOSED TO APARTHEID COULD LEGALLY BE BRANDED COMMUNISTIC. HE SAID HE DIDN'T BELIEVE ANYONE IN THE GROUP WAS A TERRORIST OR A COMMUNIST, BUT AGREED THAT MANY ARE SYMPATHETIC TO AIMS OF LIBERATION GROUPS.

4. DE FLEURIOT MENTIONED THAT HE HAD HEARD THE FORD BRANCH IN PORT ELIZABETH WAS CONSIDERING FIRING DENNIS MUMBLE, A FORMER CHIEF SHOP STEWARD AND YCW LEADER WHO WAS AMONG ORIGINAL DETAINEES. HE SAID IF THEY DO, "GLASS WILL GO" IN PORT ELIZABETH.

FARBER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHRISTIANS, HARASSMENT, DETENTION, SECRET MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DURBAN00390
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780276-0544
Format: TEL
From: DURBAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780796/aaaadcty.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5e15fc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JOHANNESBURG 1522
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2118436
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS PLAN SECRET NATIONAL MEETING
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, PINT, SHUM, SF, YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS
To: STATE PRETORIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5e15fc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014